IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A video information reproducing apparatus in a Near Video On Demand system in which the same program is distributed in a plurality of channels for a predetermined time difference with forefront data being a portion of the program distributed during the predetermined time difference, the video information reproducing apparatus comprising:

a record means to record in advance forefront data from a forefront data start time to a forefront data end time of the program for the predetermined time difference,

a digital signal reproduction means to reproduce the forefront data of the predetermined time difference recorded in the record means,

a memory means that can perform data writing and data reading in parallel, and

a control means to execute control in which which:

the forefront data from a selected channel is reproduced by the digital signal reproduction means starting immediately at a time when the program is selected and selected;

a channel is selected from the plurality of channels, the selected channel distributing the program at the forefront data end time during the reproduction of the forefront data by the digital signal reproduction means;

~~writes to the memory means~~ the data following the forefront data end time is

written to the memory means from only the selected channel simultaneously with

reproduction of the forefront ~~data,~~data; and

after reproduction of the forefront data the following data is read from the

memory means to be outputted continuously after the forefront [[data,]] data

~~wherein the video information reproducing apparatus detects whether a distributed~~

~~schedule information announces that the distributed schedule information is altered to include a~~

~~new program and, in response, records forefront data for the new program to the record means,~~

~~and~~

~~wherein a time information extract means extracting time information in the program is~~

~~provided so that time information of a clock function corresponds to the time information of the~~

~~information extract means, and when the program is altered, the data recorded in the record~~

~~means is recorded over again onto the forefront data of the altered program, employing the time~~

~~information obtained in the time information extract means as a standard.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended)   The video information reproducing apparatus as set

forth in claim [[1]] 12, wherein the control means detects that the program is altered through

schedule information distributed by one channel among the plurality of channels and extracts

time information by the time information extract means based upon the detection result to alter

the program.

4. (Currently Amended)   A video information reproducing apparatus in a Near Video On Demand system in which the same program is distributed in a plurality of channels for a predetermined time difference with forefront data being a portion of the program distributed during the predetermined time difference, the video information reproducing apparatus comprising:

a record means to record in advance forefront data from a forefront data start time to a forefront data end time;of the program for the predetermined time difference,

a digital signal reproduction means to reproduce the forefront data of the predetermined time difference recorded in the record means, and

a control means to execute control in which which:

the forefront data from a selected channel is reproduced by the digital signal reproduction means starting immediately at a time when the program is selected selected;

a channel is selected from the plurality of channels, the selected channel distributing the program at the forefront data end time during the reproduction of the forefront data by the digital signal reproduction means;

and writes to the memory means the data following the forefront data end time is written to the memory means from only the selected channel simultaneously with reproduction of the forefront data, and after reproduction of the forefront data data; and

the following data is read from the memory means to be outputted continuously after the forefront [[data,]] data

wherein the video information reproducing apparatus detects whether a distributed schedule information announces that the distributed schedule information is altered to include a

~~new program and, in response, records forefront data for the new program to the record means,~~

~~and~~

~~wherein a time information extract means extracting time information in the program is~~

~~provided so that time information of a clock function corresponds to the time information of the~~

~~information extract means, and when the program is altered, the data recorded in the record~~

~~means is recorded over again onto the forefront data of the altered program, employing the time~~

~~information obtained in the time information extract means as a standard.~~

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended)   The video information reproducing apparatus as set

forth in claim [[4]] 13, wherein the control means detects that the program is altered through

schedule information distributed by one channel among the plurality of channels and extracts

time information by the time information extract means based upon the detection result to alter

the program.

7. (Original)   The video information reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim

4, wherein the recording medium is comprised of a hard disk, and the forefront data is recorded

on a predetermined area of the hard disk so that the forefront data recorded in the predetermined

area and data following the forefront data are seamlessly reproduced from the hard disk at the

time of reproduction.

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8. (Currently Amended) The video information reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim [[7]] 13, wherein the recording medium is comprised of a hard disk, and the forefront data is recorded on a predetermined area of the hard disk so that the forefront data recorded in the predetermined area and data following the forefront data are seamlessly reproduced from the hard disk at the time of reproduction, wherein the time information obtained in the time information extract means is employed as time information of the control means so that the forefront data of the predetermined area on the hard disk is recorded.

9. (Currently Amended) A reproducing method of video information which that employs a broadcast signal by which the same program is distributed in a plurality of channels for a predetermined time difference with forefront data being a portion of the program distributed during the predetermined time difference, the method comprising

recording forefront data from a forefront data start time to a forefront data end time of the program on a recording medium on which data writing and data reading are performed in parallel in advance for the predetermined time difference, advance;

reproducing the forefront data of the predetermined time difference recorded on the recording medium starting immediately at a time when reproduction of the program is selected, and selected;

executing control in which which:

data following the forefront data from the selected channel is written on the recording medium simultaneously with reproduction of the forefront data, and after reproduction of the

~~forefront data the following data is read and outputted from the recording medium continuously after the forefront data,~~

the forefront data is reproduced starting immediately at a time when the program is selected;

a channel is selected from the plurality of channels, the selected channel distributing the program at the forefront data end time during the reproduction of the forefront data;

the data following the forefront data end time is written to a memory from only the selected channel simultaneously with reproduction of the forefront data

~~wherein the video information reproducing apparatus detects whether a distributed schedule information announces that the distributed schedule information is altered to include a new program and, in response, records forefront data for the new program to the record means, and~~

~~wherein a time information extract means extracting time information in the program is provided so that time information of a clock function corresponds to the time information of the information extract means, and when the program is altered, the data recorded in the record means is recorded over again onto the forefront data of the altered program, employing the time information obtained in the time information extract means as a standard.~~

10. (Currently Amended)   The reproducing method of video information as set forth in claim [[9]] 14, wherein it is detected that the program is altered through schedule information distributed by one channel among the plurality of channels, and time information is

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extracted by the time information extract means based upon the detection result to alter the program.

11. (Currently Amended)   A method of reproducing video information according to program schedule information in which the same program is distributed in a plurality of instances, the respective distributions being separated by a predetermined time difference, the method comprising:

recording forefront data on a recording medium, the forefront data being video information of the program from a <u>forefront data start time being the</u> start of the program distribution and continuing for the predetermined time difference<u> to a forefront data end time</u>;

executing control in~~which~~ <u>which</u>:

~~data following the forefront data from the selected channel is written on the recording medium simultaneously with reproduction of the forefront data, and after reproduction of the forefront data the following data is read and outputted from the recording medium continuously after the forefront data,~~

<u>the forefront data is reproduced starting immediately at a time when the program is selected;</u>

<u>a channel is selected from the plurality of channels, the selected channel distributing the program at the forefront data end time during the reproduction of the forefront data;</u>

<u>the data following the forefront data end time is written to a memory from only the selected channel simultaneously with reproduction of the forefront data</u>~~and~~

~~detecting whether the program schedule information announces that the program schedule information is altered to include a new program and, in response, recording forefront data for the new program to the record means,~~

~~wherein a time information extract means extracting time information in the program is provided so that time information of a clock function corresponds to the time information of the information extract means, and when the program is altered, the data recorded in the record means is recorded over again onto the forefront data of the altered program, employing the time information obtained in the time information extract means as a standard.~~

12. (New)   The video information reproducing apparatus of claim 1, wherein a time information extract means extracting time information in the program is provided so that time information of a clock function corresponds to the time information of the information extract means, and when the program is altered, the data recorded in the record means is recorded over again onto the forefront data of the altered program, employing the time information obtained in the time information extract means as a standard.

13. (New)   The video information reproducing apparatus of claim 4, wherein a time information extract means extracting time information in the program is provided so that time information of a clock function corresponds to the time information of the information extract means, and when the program is altered, the data recorded in the record means is recorded over again onto the forefront data of the altered program, employing the time information obtained in the time information extract means as a standard.

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14. (New)   The reproducing method of video information of claim 9, wherein a time information extract means extracting time information in the program is provided so that time information of a clock function corresponds to the time information of the information extract means, and when the program is altered, the data recorded in the record means is recorded over again onto the forefront data of the altered program, employing the time information obtained in the time information extract means as a standard.

15. (New)   The method of reproducing video information of claim 11, wherein a time information extract means extracting time information in the program is provided so that time information of a clock function corresponds to the time information of the information extract means, and when the program is altered, the data recorded in the record means is recorded over again onto the forefront data of the altered program, employing the time information obtained in the time information extract means as a standard.

16. (New)   The video information reproducing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the video information reproducing apparatus detects whether a distributed schedule information announces that the distributed schedule information is altered to include a new program and, in response, records forefront data for the new program to the record means.

17. (New)   The video information reproducing apparatus of claim 4, wherein the video information reproducing apparatus detects whether a distributed schedule information announces that the distributed schedule information is altered to include a new program and, in response, records forefront data for the new program to the record means.

18. (New)   The reproducing method of video information of claim 9, wherein the video information reproducing apparatus detects whether a distributed schedule information announces that the distributed schedule information is altered to include a new program and, in response, records forefront data for the new program to the record means.

19. (New)   The method of reproducing video information of claim 11, wherein the video information reproducing apparatus detects whether a distributed schedule information announces that the distributed schedule information is altered to include a new program and, in response, records forefront data for the new program to the record means.